

## **Abbreviated Comments on Stable Families Initiative for HUD webinar on August 3<sup>rd</sup> (8 minutes) v2**

**Webinar Monday, August 3, 2:30-4:00. Meet at HUD Mpls office by 2:00. International Building, 920 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South, Minneapolis. James Baltazar is local contact.**

### **Background**

- Response to growing number of families in shelter.
- Right to shelter community with capacity of 240 rooms (including overflow). HC 1.2 million.
- Data showed increasing percentage of families returning to shelter.
- Risk of returning to shelter - young, less education, people of color
- Cost - \$1.5 million/year
- Concluded – single response of RRH wasn't sufficient.
- Tried progressive engagement for those coming back
  
- Launched Stable Families Initiative in February 2014.
  1. Prevention - targeted outreach to those most at risk of shelter – had been there before
  2. Coordinated County services –employment and parent support
    - a. one team of welfare workers for all returning homeless families
  3. Young Parent Pilot (under 25) - Case mgmt., child services, and rent subsidies
    - a. Used dedicated 2-year HOME subsidies and MN Housing subsidies
- At the same time, shelter staff focused on jobs as fastest strategy to get out of shelter.

### **Outcomes:**

- Number of families in shelter on any night is down about 30% from a year ago
- Length of stay in shelter is also down about 12 percent.
- We are tracking outcomes of the SFI, with control/treatment comparison
  - Return to shelter rates are lower for families served in the pilot vs control
  - Monthly incomes are higher for SFI families in the young parent pilot vs control

### **Key Lessons Learned:**

- Need multi-prong approach - different strategies for different subpopulations. Rapid rehousing, by itself is not sufficient.
- Data suggested focus on repeat shelter users with more targeted progressive engagement.

### **What is unanswered:**

- Monitor all the strategies available and how they map to VI-SPDAT screen in Coordinated Entry.
- Where is RRH most successful, PSH, long-term affordable housing? Map out need versus available resources.
- Any suggestions from HUD on where they can help us?